

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2998

To establish the Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor in the State of Georgia,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2007

Mr. MARSHALL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor in
the State of Georgia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ocmulgee National
5 Heritage Corridor Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Ocmulgee Heritage Corridor is centered
9 on the fall line of the Ocmulgee River, a crossroads
10 of history and geography, which divides two geo-

1 graphic regions and creates two distinct ecosystems,
2 the Piedmont Plateau and the Eastern Coastal
3 Plain. The intersection of land and water transpor-
4 tation routes has fostered a continuum of human
5 settlement that has endured more than 12,000
6 years.

7 (2) Macon, Georgia, has more acreage listed in
8 the National Register than any other city in Geor-
9 gia, including fifty-four individual properties, ten
10 National Register historic districts with more than
11 5,500 contributing properties, and two National His-
12 toric Landmarks.

13 (3) The Ocmulgee National Monument protects
14 the remains of Native American settlements over a
15 12,000-year period and has features and artifacts
16 representing a long cultural continuum from early
17 hunter-gatherers through the Civil War.

18 (4) The Ocmulgee Old Fields, which consist of
19 the Ocmulgee National Monument, Bond Swamp
20 National Wildlife Refuge, Central City Park, and
21 other private lands in the Ocmulgee floodplain have
22 been determined eligible for listing in the National
23 Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural
24 Property. The Traditional Cultural Property deter-
25 mination is based on the area's cultural and histor-

1 ical significance in Native American heritage and its
2 potential for yielding important information about
3 the history of the Macon Plateau and Ocmulgee
4 River.

5 (5) The Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor
6 has been proposed in order to heighten appreciation
7 of the region, preserve its natural and historical re-
8 sources, and improve the quality of life and economy
9 of the area.

10 (6) Macon, Georgia has been designated as one
11 of Georgia's Preserve America Communities and one
12 of the National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destina-
13 tions of 2004.

14 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
15 lows:

16 (1) To establish the Ocmulgee National Herit-
17 age Corridor in the State of Georgia.

18 (2) To implement the national heritage corridor
19 alternative as described in the document entitled
20 “Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor Feasibility
21 Study, September 2004”.

22 (3) To provide a management framework to
23 foster a close working relationship among all levels
24 of government, the private sector, and the local com-
25 munities in the Ocmulgee Heritage Corridor and to

1 conserve the region’s heritage while continuing to
2 pursue compatible economic opportunities.

3 (4) To assist communities, organizations, and
4 citizens in the State of Georgia in identifying, pre-
5 serving, interpreting, and developing the historical,
6 cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the region
7 for the educational and inspirational benefit of cur-
8 rent and future generations.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) HERITAGE CORRIDOR.—The term “Herit-
12 age Corridor” means the Ocmulgee National Herit-
13 age Corridor, established in section 4.

14 (2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term
15 “Local Coordinating Entity” means the local coordi-
16 nating entity for the Heritage Corridor designated
17 by section 4(d).

18 (3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-
19 ment plan” means the management plan for the
20 Heritage Corridor specified in section 6.

21 (4) MAP.—The term “map” means the map ti-
22 tled “Boundary Map Ocmulgee National Heritage
23 Corridor-Alternative B” and dated September 2004.

24 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
2 of Georgia.

3 **SEC. 4. OCMULGEE NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
5 Ocmulgee National Heritage Corridor.

6 (b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Corridor shall be
7 comprised of the land and water within the boundaries of
8 the Heritage Corridor, as depicted on the map, includ-
9 ing—

10 (1) the City of Macon, Georgia;

11 (2) Ocmulgee National Monument; and

12 (3) the Ocmulgee River Corridor from Water
13 Works to the Bond Swamp.

14 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file
15 and available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
16 fices of the National Park Service, Department of the In-
17 terior.

18 (d) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The Ocmulgee
19 Heritage L.L.C. shall be the local coordinating entity for
20 the Heritage Corridor.

21 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE LOCAL COORDI-**
22 **NATING ENTITY.**

23 (a) DUTIES OF THE LOCAL COORDINATING ENTI-
24 TY.—To further the purposes of the Heritage Corridor,
25 the local coordinating entity shall—

1 (1) prepare and submit a management plan for
2 the Heritage Corridor to the Secretary in accordance
3 with section 6;

4 (2) assist units of local government, regional
5 planning organizations, and nonprofit organizations
6 in implementing the approved management plan
7 by—

8 (A) carrying out programs and projects
9 that recognize, protect, and enhance important
10 resource values within the Heritage Corridor;

11 (B) establishing and maintaining interpre-
12 tive exhibits and programs within the Heritage
13 Corridor;

14 (C) developing recreational and educational
15 opportunities in the Heritage Corridor;

16 (D) increasing public awareness of and ap-
17 preciation for natural, historical, scenic, and
18 cultural resources of the Heritage Corridor;

19 (E) protecting and restoring historic sites
20 and buildings in the Heritage Corridor that are
21 consistent with Heritage Corridor themes;

22 (F) ensuring that clear, consistent, and ap-
23 propriate signs identifying points of public ac-
24 cess and sites of interest are posted throughout
25 the Heritage Corridor; and

1 (G) promoting a wide range of partner-
2 ships among governments, organizations, and
3 individuals to further the purposes of the Herit-
4 age Corridor;

5 (3) consider the interests of diverse units of
6 government, businesses, organizations, and individ-
7 uals in the Heritage Corridor in the preparation and
8 implementation of the management plan;

9 (4) conduct meetings open to the public at least
10 semiannually regarding the development and imple-
11 mentation of the management plan;

12 (5) submit an annual report to the Secretary
13 for any fiscal year in which the local coordinating
14 entity receives Federal funds under this Act speci-
15 fying—

16 (A) the specific performance goals and ac-
17 complishments of the local coordinating entity;

18 (B) the expenses and income of the local
19 coordinating entity;

20 (C) the amounts and sources of matching
21 funds;

22 (D) the amounts leveraged with Federal
23 funds and sources of the leveraging; and

24 (E) grants made to any other entities dur-
25 ing the fiscal year;

1 (6) make available for audit for any fiscal year
2 in which it receives Federal funds under this Act, all
3 information pertaining to the expenditure of such
4 funds and any matching funds, and require in all
5 agreements authorizing expenditures of Federal
6 funds by other organizations, that the receiving or-
7 ganizations make available for such audit all records
8 and other information pertaining to the expenditure
9 of such funds; and

10 (7) encourage by appropriate means economic
11 viability that is consistent with the purposes of the
12 Heritage Corridor.

13 (b) AUTHORITIES.—The local coordinating entity
14 may, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the
15 management plan for the Heritage Corridor, use Federal
16 funds made available through this Act to—

17 (1) make grants to the State of Georgia, its po-
18 litical subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, and
19 other persons;

20 (2) enter into cooperative agreements with or
21 provide technical assistance to the State of Georgia,
22 its political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations,
23 Federal agencies, and other interested parties;

24 (3) hire and compensate staff, which shall in-
25 clude individuals with expertise in natural, cultural,

1 and historical resources protection, economic and
2 community development, and heritage planning;

3 (4) obtain funds or services from any source in-
4 cluding any that are provided under any other Fed-
5 eral law or program;

6 (5) contract for goods or services; and

7 (6) support activities of partners and any other
8 activities that further the purposes of the Heritage
9 Corridor and is consistent with the approved man-
10 agement plan.

11 (c) PROHIBITIONS ON THE ACQUISITION OF REAL
12 PROPERTY.—The local coordinating entity may not use
13 Federal funds received under this Act to acquire real prop-
14 erty, but may use any other source of funding, including
15 other Federal funding outside this authority, intended for
16 the acquisition of real property.

17 **SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The management plan for the
19 Heritage Corridor shall—

20 (1) include comprehensive policies, strategies,
21 and recommendations for conservation, funding,
22 management, and development of the Heritage Cor-
23 ridor;

1 (2) take into consideration existing State, coun-
2 ty, and local plans in the development of the man-
3 agement plan and its implementation;

4 (3) include a description of actions that govern-
5 ments, private organizations, and individuals have
6 agreed to take to protect the natural, historical, and
7 cultural resources of the Heritage Corridor;

8 (4) specify the existing and potential sources of
9 funding or economic development strategies to pro-
10 tect, manage, and develop the Heritage Corridor;

11 (5) include an inventory of the natural, histor-
12 ical, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational
13 resources of the Heritage Corridor related to the
14 themes of the Heritage Corridor that should be pre-
15 served, restored, managed, developed, or maintained;

16 (6) recommend policies and strategies for re-
17 source management that consider and detail the ap-
18 plication of appropriate land and water management
19 techniques including, but not limited to, the develop-
20 ment of intergovernmental and interagency coopera-
21 tive agreements to protect the Heritage Corridor's
22 natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, and
23 recreational resources;

24 (7) describe a program of implementation for
25 the management plan including performance goals,

1 plans for resource protection, restoration, interpreta-
2 tion, enhancement, management, and development,
3 and specific commitments for implementation that
4 have been made by the local coordinating entity or
5 any government, organization, or individual;

6 (8) include an analysis and recommendations
7 for ways in which local, State, and Federal pro-
8 grams, including the role of the National Park Serv-
9 ice in the Heritage Corridor, may best be coordi-
10 nated to further the purposes of this Act;

11 (9) include an interpretive plan for the Heritage
12 Corridor; and

13 (10) include a business plan that—

14 (A) describes the role, operation, financing,
15 and functions of the local coordinating entity
16 and of each of the major activities contained in
17 the management plan; and

18 (B) provides adequate assurances that the
19 local coordinating entity has the partnerships
20 and financial and other resources necessary to
21 implement the management plan for the Herit-
22 age Corridor.

23 (b) DEADLINE AND TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—

24 (1) DEADLINE.—The local coordinating entity
25 shall submit the management plan to the Secretary

1 for approval not later than 3 years after funds are
2 made available for this Act.

3 (2) TERMINATION OF FUNDING.—If the man-
4 agement plan is not submitted to the Secretary in
5 accordance with this subsection, the local coordi-
6 nating entity shall not qualify for Federal funding
7 under this Act until such time as the management
8 plan is submitted to and approved by the Secretary.

9 **SEC. 7. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

10 (a) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, upon
12 the request of the local coordinating entity, provide
13 technical and financial assistance on a reimbursable
14 or nonreimbursable basis (as determined by the Sec-
15 retary) to the Heritage Corridor to develop and im-
16 plement the approved management plan. The Sec-
17 retary is authorized to enter into cooperative agree-
18 ments with the local coordinating entity and other
19 public or private entities for this purpose.

20 (2) PRIORITY ACTIONS.—In assisting the Herit-
21 age Corridor, the Secretary shall give priority to ac-
22 tions that in general assist in—

23 (A) conserving the significant natural, his-
24 torical, cultural, and scenic resources of the
25 Heritage Corridor; and

1 (B) providing educational, interpretive, and
2 recreational opportunities consistent with the
3 purposes of the Heritage Corridor.

4 (b) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT
5 PLAN.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve
7 or disapprove the management plan not later than
8 180 days after receiving the management plan.

9 (2) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—In determining
10 the approval of the management plan, the Secretary
11 shall consider whether—

12 (A) the local coordinating entity is rep-
13 resentative of the diverse interests of the Herit-
14 age Corridor including governments, natural
15 and historic resource protection organizations,
16 educational institutions, businesses, and rec-
17 reational organizations;

18 (B) the local coordinating entity has af-
19 forded adequate opportunity, including public
20 hearings, for public and governmental involve-
21 ment in the preparation of the management
22 plan;

23 (C) the resource protection and interpreta-
24 tion strategies contained in the management
25 plan, if implemented, would adequately protect

1 the natural, historical, and cultural resources of
2 the Heritage Corridor;

3 (D) the Secretary has received adequate
4 assurances from the appropriate State and local
5 officials whose support is needed to ensure the
6 effective implementation of the State and local
7 aspects of the management plan; and

8 (E) the local coordinating entity has dem-
9 onstrated the financial capability, in partner-
10 ship with others, to carry out the plan.

11 (3) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—If the
12 Secretary disapproves the management plan, the
13 Secretary shall advise the local coordinating entity in
14 writing of the reasons that the management plan
15 was disapproved and shall make recommendations
16 for revisions to the management plan. The Secretary
17 shall approve or disapprove a proposed revision with-
18 in 180 days after the date it is submitted.

19 (4) APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.—Substantial
20 amendments to the management plan shall be re-
21 viewed by the Secretary and approved in the same
22 manner as provided for the original management
23 plan. The local coordinating entity shall not use
24 Federal funds authorized by this Act to implement

1 any amendments until the Secretary has approved
2 the amendments.

3 **SEC. 8. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects the au-
5 thority of a Federal agency to provide technical or finan-
6 cial assistance under any other law.

7 (b) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The head
8 of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that
9 may have an impact on the Heritage Corridor is encour-
10 aged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Sec-
11 retary and the local coordinating entity to the maximum
12 extent practicable.

13 (c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Nothing in this
14 Act—

15 (1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regu-
16 lation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Fed-
17 eral land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agen-
18 cy;

19 (2) limits the discretion of a Federal land man-
20 ager to implement an approved land use plan within
21 the boundaries of the Heritage Corridor; or

22 (3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized
23 use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Fed-
24 eral agency.

1 **SEC. 9. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTEC-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 Nothing in this Act—

4 (1) abridges the rights of any property owner
5 (whether public or private), including the right to re-
6 frain from participating in any plan, project, pro-
7 gram, or activity conducted within the Heritage Cor-
8 ridor;

9 (2) requires any property owner to permit pub-
10 lic access (including access by Federal, State, or
11 local agencies) to the property of the property
12 owner, or to modify public access or use of property
13 of the property owner under any other Federal,
14 State, or local law;

15 (3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation,
16 approved land use plan, or other regulatory author-
17 ity of any Federal, State, or local agency, or conveys
18 any land use or other regulatory authority to any
19 local coordinating entity;

20 (4) authorizes or implies the reservation or ap-
21 propriation of water or water rights;

22 (5) diminishes the authority of the State to
23 manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of
24 fishing and hunting within the Heritage Corridor; or

25 (6) creates any liability, or affects any liability
26 under any other law, or any private property owner

1 with respect to any person injured on the private
2 property.

3 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
5 priated for the purposes of this Act not more than
6 \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year. Not more than a total of
7 \$10,000,000 may be appropriated for the Heritage Cor-
8 ridor under this Act.

9 (b) MATCHING FUNDS.—Federal funding provided
10 under this Act may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost
11 of any assistance or grant provided or authorized under
12 this Act.

13 **SEC. 11. SUNSET.**

14 The authority of the Secretary to provide financial
15 assistance under this Act shall terminate on the day occur-
16 ring 15 years after the date of the enactment of the Act.

○